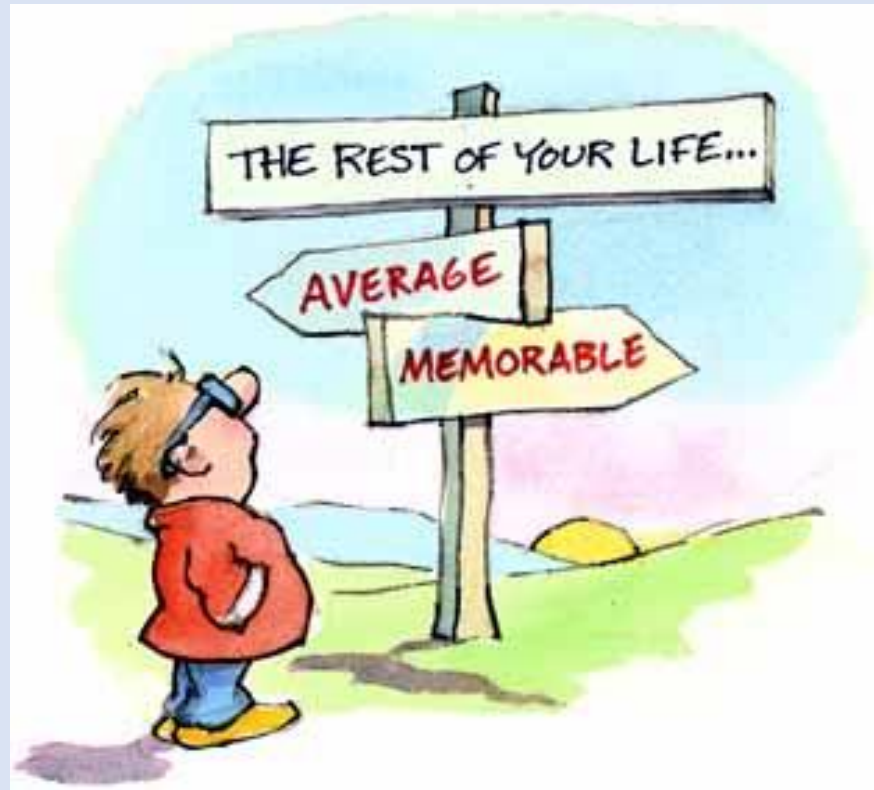


Engaging High Risk Families: Strategies to Keep Children Safely at Home through Early Engagement



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Intensive Family Services Team Program

IFST is a non-judicial in home program offered to families who are willing to accept intensive supervision and services aimed at stabilizing the family.

- ✓ Provide services for six to twelve months based on the service needs of the family.
- ✓ Provides wrap-around services based on the family's assessed needs as determined through assessments: Family Functioning Assessment (completed by the Child Protective Investigator), the FFA-Ongoing
- ✓ Additional assessments may include Substance Abuse and Mental Health Assessments, Parenting Assessments, and the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) or Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social Emotional (ASQSE).

Staff Training and Skill Development

- Motivational Interviewing
- Mindfulness Training
- Domestic Violence Training
- Wraparound 101 Training

Program Strengths

- Collaboration between DCF CPI staff and IFST case management staff – Joint Visits
- Communication
- Safety Planning
- Service Delivery – services initiated and monitored
- Accountability by all parties DCF, CWCM, parents and safety managers

Case Transfer Process

- Involvement of Program Administrator in Case Transfer Decisions
- Involvement of Program Administrator in Case Transfer Decisions
- Involvement of the Program Administrator in Transfer Decision Process
- Communication is focused on specific needs of the family
- Once unsafe child is identified a collaborative approach to developing impending danger safety plan
- Streamlined case transfer process to primary CWCM assignment because of collaborative efforts



Safety Management Services

- Formal Safety Management Services
- Informal Safety Managers
- Family Safety Workers to monitor safety plan



Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Christopher Rossi



- 12 Years in Active Addiction to Drugs and Alcohol
- Clean and Sober since April 4, 2017
- Active in a 12 Step Based Recovery Program
- 150 Parents referred since October 2019



Substance Abuse Specialist/Registered
Mental Health intern – DeSean
Gildyard

- **Assessment (screening) process –
DAST 10**
- **Feedback to Case Management staff
on outcome of assessment and
recommended services**
- **Liaison to Behavioral Health
providers for Substance Abuse
services**
- **First Contact with the client; building
rapport and nonjudgmental**
- **The referral process**
- **Documentation**



Collaboration
with
Behavioral
Health
Providers

Family Intervention
Services (FIS)

State Opioid Response
funded programs

Family Intensive
Treatment Team (FIT)

Department
of Children
and Families
Co-located
Services

- Domestic Violence Advocate
- Behavioral Health Consultants

Creative Platforms for Parent Engagement

- Online Courses to help families:
 - Open Path Collective
 - Courseforcourt.com
 - Hanley Foundation
 - ACT Services

Community Resources



Partnership with pro bono attorneys to assist with Temporary Custody



Utilization Management flex funds



Gift Cards



Bus Passes



Faith Based Initiatives



United Way funding and grant opportunities

Program Outcomes and Financial Benefits

- 951 Children served since 12/17
- 579 Children served in FY 19 - 20
- 95% of children remain in-home
- In-home vs Out-of Home
 - In June 2017 6.6 per 1000 OOHC and 3.6 per 1000 IHC
 - In June 2020 6.2 per 1000 OOHC and 4.1 per 1000 IHC
- \$1,422,00 savings since inception of IFST



Evidence Based Programs for In-Home Families

- **Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)** is a well-established, nationally recognized home visiting program for first-time low income mothers and their children that is delivered by registered nurses https://caseyfamilypro-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/media/SC_Reducing-child-maltreatment.pdf
- **SafeCare** is an evidenced based training curriculum aimed at helping parents improve their parenting skills, increasing home safety and improving health related issues. Gateway <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/prevention-programs/homevisit/homevisitprog/safe-care/>
- **Multisystemic Therapy (MST)** serves youth ages 12-17 through an intensive treatment model that can be delivered in multiple settings by master's level clinicians. Studies show the ecological assessment of the youth in relation to his or her family, school and community effectively addresses the root causes of anti-social and delinquent behaviors increasing the likelihood of youth remaining with their families and preventing out of home placement <https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/multisystemic-therapy/detailed>
- **Functional Family Therapy (FFT)** is a strength based, short term intervention model for youth ages 11 – 18 who have been referred by multiple systems (e.g., child welfare, school, mental health) for emotional and behavioral health issues. <https://www.fftllc.com/about-fft-training/project-outcomes.html>